

## AMERICORPS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

**Position Title: F2S Summer Outdoor Educator**

**Field of Service: Farm to School / Youth Education**

**Service Site:** Mountain Roots Food Project

**Address:** 107 E Georgia Ave Suite 3B Gunnison, CO 81230

**Site Supervisor's Name:** Holly Conn

**Slot Type:** full time, summer

**Minimum # of hours to complete term:** 450

**Start Date:** late May

**End Date:** end of August

### Program Overview

Localizing our food system is one of the most impactful and actionable steps we can take to solve so many of our global problems. Across the central Rocky Mountains and southwestern Colorado, AmeriCorps service with Mountain Roots Healthy Futures Program builds social, economic, and environmental health for rural communities. We work with ten organizations throughout the region who are leaders in their fields, activating community-driven initiatives including Farm to School, Regenerative Agriculture & Community Gardens, Hunger Solutions (Community Food Security), and other programs in public health, conservation, and the environment. Join us for anywhere from one season to up to two years of mentored service, where you'll build a bridge from college to career while building and sustaining healthy communities, healthy people, and a healthy environment.

### Organization Overview

*Mountain Roots is a local food systems initiative serving the central Rocky Mountain communities of Gunnison and Crested Butte. We run a district-wide Farm to School program; we manage five youth and community gardens focused on engagement of marginalized/disadvantaged residents, and we're a key agricultural producer in Gunnison Valley, practicing Regenerative Agriculture on two community farm sites. We are a leader in Community Food Security, meeting food needs of underserved residents with food rescue and food distribution initiatives, including providing weekly boxes of fresh produce along with cooking education and community engagement to 150 low-income, vulnerable, and socially disadvantaged households.*

### Service Description

Within a Colorado mountain community Farm to School program, you will teach hands-on lessons in environmental science, food & nutrition, outdoor skills, cooking, and more during a 10-week outdoor experience summer camp program for K-12 youth. Days are spent outdoors exploring the natural world.

Farm to School (F2S) Summer Educators join a team of people passionate about connecting youth to the earth, to their food, and to the community, bridging gaps that enable our rural mountain youth to have nutrition, health, and garden-based environmental education opportunities both in and out of school.

Getting outdoors, staying active, connecting with friends, and sharing adventures in nature is just what kids are craving. Our popular outdoor summer camps are among the highest-rated in our area and most kids return year after year. F2S Summer Outdoor Educators design and deliver the daily adventures (lessons, curriculum, and activities) that make these nature-based summer day camp experiences exceptional and memorable. You'll plan and lead outdoor, trip-based adventure camps that explore rivers, forests, mountains, meadows, animal habitats, kitchens, farms and other outstanding natural places around the Gunnison Valley. Through discovery, campers explore nature, earth science, water, botany, survival skills, growing and cooking food, and more. We are outdoors in all weather, and we travel by bike, walking and hiking, and in the Mountain Roots 15-passenger van. Small groups, enthusiastic outdoor educators, and fantastic destinations – right in our own backyard - make our summer camps a favorite of



locals and visitors alike. Educators are given responsibility to teach independently as well as with a team, gaining valuable experience for future teaching in Environmental Education.

F2S Summer Outdoor Educators assist with cultivating two school gardens through a start-to-finish growing season and integrating them into summer camp curriculum. Members may also coordinate volunteers, build community partnerships, and work to build new programs and community relationships, provide outreach and engagement at community events to promote F2S and the organization’s programs and mission.

Because we are a food systems organization, all Members serving at Mountain Roots participate in “cross-pollination” experiences, rotating into all the programs to gain exposure to the wider food systems arena of work, including regenerative agriculture, education, conservation, and community food security. Through this mentored experience, you will gain skills in curriculum development, classroom management, program planning, volunteer engagement, and you will participate in ongoing professional development.

We look for candidates who are passionate, patient, flexible, intelligent, creative, kind, caring, self-motivated team players, and who feel strongly about the importance of connecting kids to the source of their food for the betterment of themselves, their communities, and the larger world. This position works primarily with students ages 5–18 and can include some adult education. We look for background or experience in teaching, experiential education, environmental studies, sustainable agriculture, local food systems, and health/nutrition, enthusiasm for working with youth, strong professional communication skills, computer skills, and a clean driving record. This position works in the outdoors, in the classroom, has components of physical labor related to gardening, and has office duties.

### **AmeriCorps Member Primary Responsibilities**

#### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Design and deliver hands-on nature-based outdoor experience lessons in environmental and nutrition education to pre-k through high school students
- Teaching earth science, nature discovery, botany, survival skills, cooking, nature based arts and crafts, and more
- Coordinating destinations and education opportunities with local expert guest speakers and guides.
- Cultivate two school gardens through a start-to-finish growing season and to integrate them into school curriculum and school cafeterias; coordinating and leading community field days
- Assist with coordinating volunteers, designing and implementing community outreach and engagement strategies that increase involvement and promote positive community relationships
- Assist with program development - build new programs to meet community need
- Provide outreach and engagement at community events to promote F2S and the organization’s programs and mission, develop promotional strategies and materials for print and social media

#### **SECONDARY FUNCTIONS**

- Food systems “cross-pollination” experiences: members rotate through all the programs over the course of the year to gain exposure to the wider food systems arena of work, including regenerative agriculture, education, conservation, and community food security
- capacity building - innovate organizational systems, programs, and methods that allow rural organizations to more effectively understand and address community need. Up to 10% of time can be spent on fundraising, including grant writing
- volunteer coordination, community events
- Drive students to and from sites in company and/or rental vehicles, including 15-passenger vans



**Location and Service Conditions:**

This position is based at Mountain Roots in Gunnison/Crested Butte, CO and will involve service at schools, youth-based organizations, out in nature, on public and private lands, at public events, and other community locations. This position will involve frequent days of service outdoors and/or in a school or community building.

**Qualifications:**

We look for candidates who:

- are passionate, patient, flexible, intelligent, curious, creative, kind, caring, self-motivated team players
- feel strongly about the importance of connecting kids to the source of their food for the betterment of themselves, their communities, and the larger world
- have a background or experience with experiential education, environmental studies, sustainable agriculture, local food systems, and health/nutrition
- are good with kids - have experience working with / teaching youth and desire to develop those skills toward a career in education that does not follow the mainstream 'classroom educator' track
- are good leaders, setting an example for youth and colleagues
- want to grow – seeks challenges, takes initiative, maintains positive outlook, perseveres through difficulties
- have strong professional communication skills, including in-person/speaking, writing, and computer skills.
- A clean driving record
- facilitate the development of positive group dynamics with and among youth through team building
- are dependable, organized, honest, and can be responsible for safety of self and others
- Spanish language skills are a plus, as many of our students and families speak Spanish

**AmeriCorps Required Qualifications:**

- At least 17 years old at start of service
- Must be a high school graduate, GED recipient, or working toward attaining a high school diploma or GED during the term of service. Members must obtain either a diploma or GED before using an education award.
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident of the United States
- Able to pass a National Service Criminal History Check (state, FBI, and National Sex Offender Public Website checks) per 45 CFR 2540.202

**Healthy Futures AmeriCorps Program Benefits**

- \$5,034 Living Allowance - AmeriCorps Member(s) will receive total stipend paid 719.09 bi-weekly
- \$1,824.07 Education Award / Tuition Assistance - AmeriCorps Member(s) can receive an Education Award upon successful completion of service. This can be used to pay back student loans, or to further your education.
- Eligible AmeriCorps Members can receive healthcare benefits and child care assistance.
- All Members receive professional development and training, plus covered travel costs for attendance at state or regional conferences.
- All members are eligible for Federal program assistance (SNAP, Medicaid, etc.)
- All members qualify for student loan forbearance (postponing the payment of loans) while in service.
- Alumni benefits include priority hiring with organizations that are part of Employers of National Service and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to eliminate educational debt.



**About the Living Allowance**

An AmeriCorps Living Allowance is not a wage, salary, or hourly pay. You are enrolling in a SERVICE position, not a job. The Living Allowance is a stipend designed to support the basic necessities of the individual while in service, such as room and board, utilities, and transportation. Carefully consider this when applying.

**Housing**

Mountain Roots may be able to provide space (own bedroom) in houses with other AmeriCorps members. Participation is optional and based on availability.

Place an "X" beside all that apply.

EDUCATION PREFERRED FOR THIS POSITION <i>(select all that apply)</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High School Diploma or equivalent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical / Vocational School or Apprenticeship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some College or AA Degree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bachelor's Degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Master's Degree

ESSENTIAL SKILLS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Youth Education / Teaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communications
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment / Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Organizing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Services / Health & Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teamwork
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture, Farming, & Gardening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outreach & Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Animal Husbandry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Working with vulnerable populations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade / Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Language <i>(specify)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <i>[specify]</i>

OTHER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Car Recommended
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Permits attendance at school during off hours
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Permits working at another job during off hours
<input type="checkbox"/>	Typical schedule, Monday-Friday
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Flexible hours are required, including some weekends or evenings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remote / teleservice is allowed

